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ACTION ARA-16
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
DCT-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /080 W
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY 06 DATE 25 JUN 1982
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 171902Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5365
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
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EO 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, JM
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE UPDATE NO. 14
REF: KINGSTON 7571

1. SUMMARY. VIOLENT INCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED SHARPLY SINCE THE OCTOBER 5 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS AND HAVE NOW REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVELS SINCE JULY. THERE WERE FORTY DEATHS REPORTED DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9-15, INCLUDING TEN PERSONS KILLED BY THE SECURITY FORCES. BOTH JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) AND PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) CANDIDATES HAVE PROTESTED AGAINST POLICE SHOOTINGS OF THEIR SUPPORTERS. NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF SHOOTINGS AND CLASHES ASSOCIATED WITH POLITICAL GATHERINGS WERE REPORTED. A PNP CANDIDATE'S CAUFFER WAS ATTACKED AND KILLED WHEN HE HAPPENED ON A GROUP OF JLP SUPPORTERS. PNP CANDIDATE AND SITTING MP ROY MCGANN WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES. GROUPS OF SUPPORTERS OF BOTH PARTIES ATTACKED AND

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KILLED BYSTANDERS THEY BELIEVED ASSOCIATED WITH THE RIVAL GROUP. GUNMEN SHOT UP A POLITICALLY-TROUBLED DOWNTOWN KINGSTON AREA, WOUNDING SIX. A CAR OWNED BY A JLP CANDIDATE AND DRIVEN BY HIS SUPPORTER WAS DESTROYED BY A PNP CROWD. A CAR DRIVEN BY A JLP CANDIDATE WAS BLOWN UP; THE CANDIDATE ESCAPED WITHOUT INJURY. EMBASSY EXPECTS VIOLENCE TO CONTINUE AT PRESENT OR AN EVEN GREATER RATE UNTIL THE ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. INCIDENT BREAKDOWN, OCTOBER 9-15, 1980:
A. TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED MURDERS 30
B. SUSPECTED POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED MURDERS 12
C. SUSPECTED CRIMINALLY-MOTIVATED MURDERS: 3
D. MURDERS OF UNKNOWN MOTIVATION 15
E. PERSONS KILLED BY THE SECURITY FORCES. 10.

THESE STATISTICS ARE FROM THE DAILY GLEANER WHICH REPORTS

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INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE INFORMATION CENTER (PIC).
3. MAJOR INCIDENTS.
A. OCTOBER 9:
-- THE JLP CANDIDATE FOR WESTERN ST. ANDREW AND FORMER ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, OWEN STEPHENSON, PROTESTED TO THE POLICE HIGH COMMAND OVER THE KILLING OF TWO OF HIS SUPPORTERS BY THE SECURITY FORCES PRIOR TO A VISIT TO THE AREA OF PRIMIN MANLEY AND NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON. STEVENSON CALLED THE KILLINGS "COLD BLOODED MURDER."
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-- A GROUP OF PNP SUPPORTERS PROTESTED THE SHOOTING BY POLICE IN THE TROUBLED MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA OF ST. ANDREW OF ONE OF THEIR SUPPORTERS, WHO THEY CLAIM WAS ONLY PUTTING UP CAMPAIGN POSTERS. THE POLICE REPORTEDLY FOUND THE MAGAZINE OF AN M-16 AFTER THE SHOOTING. APPARENTLY THE GUN WAS CARRIED AWAY BY A COMPANION OF THE SLAIN PNP GUNMAN.
-- THE JLP CANDIDATE FOR EAST CENTRAL ST. ANDREW, COL. LESLIE LLOYD, ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE USED AGAINST HIS CAMPAIGN WORKERS BY SUPPORTERS OF PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN. (AT A LARGE JLP RALLY ON OCTOBER 13, LLOYD SAID HE WOULD "PUSH DUNCAN UNDERGROUND" AND " DRIVE HIM INTO THE SEA.")
-- POLICE LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SOURCE OF DYNAMITE USED TO DESTROY AND DAMAGE FOUR HOUSES IN TRELAWNY.
B. OCTOBER 10:
-- THE POLICE SEIZED THE LEGALLY-REGISTERED FIREARM OF JLP CANDIDATE AND INCUMBENT MP FOR SOUTH EAST ST. MARY ALVA ROSS AFTER A CLASH BETWEEN HIS SUPPORTERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PNP. NO SHOTS WERE FIRED.
-- TWO SUPPORTERS OF THE JLP WERE INJURED WHEN SET UPON BY ANOTHER GROUP AFTER AN OPPOSITION RALLY IN SPAULDING, MANCHESTER.
-- POLICE BELIEVE A HOMEMADE BOMB WAS USED TO DESTROY THE CAR DRIVEN BY JLP CANDIDATE FOR WESTERN HANOVER HORACE CHANG. CHANG, WHO HEARD THE BOMB HIT HIS CAR, NARROWLY ESCAPED INJURY, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT.
C. OCTOBER 12:
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-- AT AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF NATIONAL HERO'S WEEK, ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP SAMUEL CARTER CALLED ON BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES TO STOP THE SENSELESS VIOLENCE AGAINST EACH OTHER.
-- A CROWD ATTACKED JLP FOLLOWERS RETURNING FROM A POLITICAL RALLY IN MONTEGO BAY. TWO PEOPLE WERE INJURED.
-- THE CHAUFFER AND ADOPTED SON OF PNP MP AND CANDIDATE
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IN CENTRAL CLARENDON O.D. RAMTALLIE WAS BEATEN TO
DEATH WHEN THE CAR HE WAS DRIVING WAS STOPPED BY JLP
SUPPORTERS RETURNING FROM THE FUNERAL OF TWO OF THEIR
MEMBERS WHO HAD DIED IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE.

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DCT-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /080 W
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D. OCTOBER 13:
-- PRIMIN MICHAEL MANLEY AND OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA ISSUED STATEMENTS ON THE EVE OF NOMINATION DAY CALLING FOR POLITICAL PEACE.
-- SEVERAL HOUSES AND CARS WERE DESTROYED IN CENTRAL CLARENDON DURING A TOUR OF THE AREA BY PRIMIN MANLEY AND PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN. MIKE HENRY, THE JLP CANDIDATE FOR THE AREA, CLAIMED THAT ONE OF HIS CAMPAIGN VEHICLES AND THREE OTHER VEHICLES HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE GROUP AND THAT THE ARSON HAD TAKEN PLACE "WITHIN CLEAR SIGHT OF THE PRIME MINISTER."
F. OCTOBER 14.
-- PNP CANDIDATE FOR THE EAST RURAL ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY ROY MCGANN AND HIS POLICE BODYGUARD WERE SHOT
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DEAD IN THE EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 14, NOMINATION DAY. ACCOUNTS OF HOW MCGANN DIED ARE CONFLICTING, BUT APPARENTLY HE WAS SHOT BY POLICEMEN WHO HAD BEEN CALLED TO THE SCENE TO CONTROL A DISTURBANCE BETWEEN RIVAL POLITICAL GROUPS. (KINGSTON 7598, 7604)
-- ELEVEN OTHER POPLE WERE KILLED IN INCIDENTS ON NOMINATION DAY. AT LEAST FOUR OF THESE DEATHS ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO POLITICAL CLASHES (KINGSTON 7643).
G. OCTOBER 15:
-- THIRTY GUNMEN, DRESSED IN MILITARY-TYPE UNIFORMS AND ARMED WITH HIGH-POWERED WEAPONS, TERRORIZED SEVERAL BLOCKS OF POLITICALLY-TROUBLED DOWNTWON KINGSTON NEAR THE CENTRAL MARKET BEGINNING AT TEN IN THE MORNING. THE MEN INDISCRIMINATELY FIRED ON PEOPLE IN THE AREA, WOUNDING SIX. BUSINESS AND SCHOOLS CLOSED EARLY IN MUCH OF DOWNTOWN KINGSTON. AS A RESULT, THE AREA WAS ALONG THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA'S

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CONSTITUENCY AND PNP MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RALP BROWN'S CONSTITUENCY. SEAGA'S OPPONENT CHARLETON WARD CLAIMED THAT HIS OFFICE WAS SHOT UP. THE PRO-PNP DAILY NEWS QUOTED EYEWITNESSES AS RECOGNIZING GUNMEN WHO CAME FROM JLP AREAS.

-- A MAN WAS FOUND SHOT TO DEATH IN HIS BURNING BUSINESS IN EAST CENTRAL KINGSTON. JLP CANDIDATE FOR THE AREA RYAN PERALTO CONDEMNED THE ATTACK AS THE WORK OF PNP "KILLER-ARSONISTS."

-- A JLP SUPPORTER WAS SET UPON BY A CROWD OF PNP SUPPORTERS IN CLARENDON AND BEATEN TO DEATH.

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-- ON OCTOBER 14 AND 15, THE POLICE SEIZED FIVE HANDGUNS AND ARRESTED SIX PEOPLE FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, INCLUDING A SOCIAL WORKER AND A UNIVERSITY STUDENT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE KILLING OF MCGANN AND THE INCREASE IN VIOLENCE, NUMEROUS PROMINENT JAMAICANS AND JAMAICAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CALLED FOR POLITICAL PEACE. THESE INCLUDE MANLEY, SEAGA, THE JAMAICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATION OF JAMAICA, THE JAMAICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, THE JAMAICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SEVERAL TRADE UNIONS, AND OTHER GROUPS.

5. COMMENT. THE WIDELY-RESPECTED SHARP INCREASE IN VIOLENCE IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS OCCURRED AS PREDICTED. WHILE THE MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE CORPORATE AREA, MANY ALSO OCCURRED ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN POPULATION CENTERS. SUPPORTERS OF BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE. ASSIGNING BLAME IS AKIN TO THE OLD CHICKEN AND EGG DEBATE. WHEN VIOLENCE WAS AT ITS PREVIOUS HIGH EARLIER THIS YEAR, WE BELIEVED MOST INCIDENTS WERE PNP INITIATED, WITH THE JLP EXERCISING RESTRAINT. WITH THE APPROACH OF ELECTION DAY, HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF RESTRAINT BY EITHER SIDE AND, INDEED, WE QUESTION WHETHER THE LEADERS OF THE PARTIES ARE ABLE TO CONTROL THE RISING TIDE OF CLASHES AND SHOOTINGS.

6. POLITICAL TENSIONS AND HATRED ARE AT THEIR PEAK. CLASHES BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF THE TWO PARIES, ATTACKS AND RETALIATION ARE VIRTUALLY INVEVITABLE. WHAT EFFECT VIOLENCE WILL HAVE ON THE VOTE IN THOSE CONSTITUENCIES WHERE THE ELECTION CONTEST IS CLOSE AND ON VOTER TURNOUT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT.

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7. THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN RECENT DAYS. THEY PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN NOMINATION

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DAY IN ESCORTING CANDIDATES TO NOMINATION CENTERS (E.G., THE JLP CANDIDATE IN VIOLENCE-RACKED SOUTH WEST ST. ANDREW ARRIVED IN AN ARMORED CAR), IN KEEPING ORDER AT THE CENTERS, AND IN KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON POLITICAL CROWDS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WITHOUT THEIR PRESENCE, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT NOMINATION DAY WOULD HAVE BEEN A MUCH BLOODIER EVENT THAN IT WAS. WHILE THE SECURITY FORCES STILL ARE PLAGUED BY MOBILITY PROBLEMS, THEY ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST IN THIS CRITICAL PERIOD TO KEEP POLITICAL VIOLENCE UNDER CONTROL. HOWEVER, MONITORING SIXTY NOMINATION CENTERS IS AN EASIER TASK THAN PROVIDING SECURITY FOR MORE THAN 6,000 POLLING STATIONS ON ELECTION DAY. THEIR STRATEGY WILL BE TO FOCUS ON THE ANTICIPATED TROUBLE SPOTS AND TO DEPUTIZE AUXILIARY POLICEMEN TO PERMIT A MODEST SECURITY FORCE PRESENCE AT THOSE POLLING STATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS, WHERE TENSIONS ARE NOT HIGH.
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